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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

School Committee,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

Town of Montague,

1877-8.

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1877-78

MONTAGUE, MASS.:

CECIL T. BAGNALL, TURNERS FALLS, MASS.

1878.

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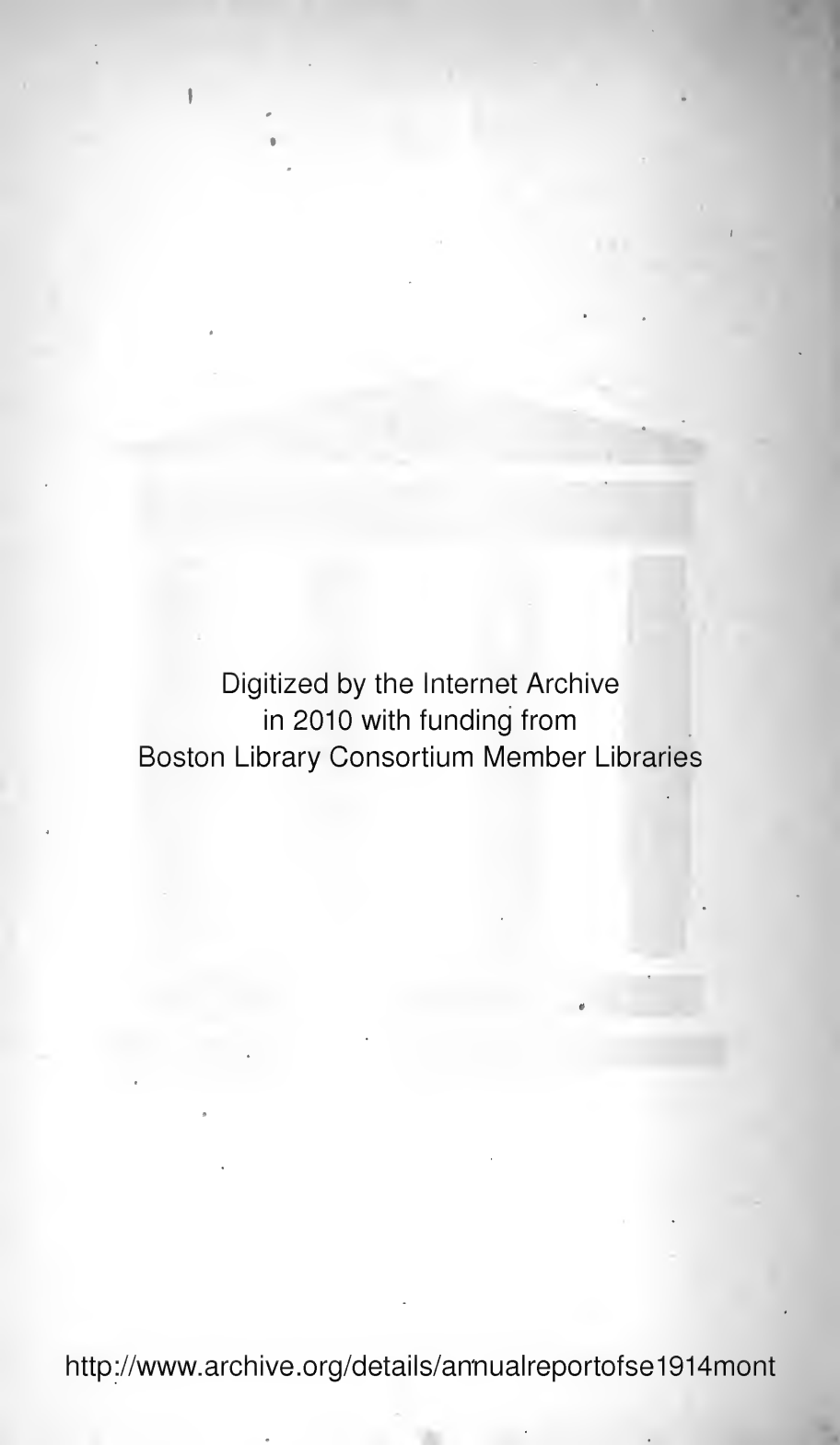
1877-8.



MONTAGUE, MASS.:

PRINTED BY CECIL T. BAGNALL, TURNERS FALLS, MASS.

1878.



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TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. H. Root, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Montague.

	Dr.
To Cash on hand Feb. 18, 1877,	\$306 48
“ Balance due on Taxes, 1875,	200 00
“ “ “ “ “ 1876,	1379 71
“ Cash received for Licenses,	1500 00
“ “ “ “ “ Rent of Lecture Room,	30 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ Town House,	23 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ Falls Ferry,	50 00
“ “ “ “ “ of Town of Florida,	86 12
“ “ “ “ “ “ Gill,	144 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ Conway,	268 95
“ “ “ “ “ “ Middleboro,	103 67
“ “ “ “ “ “ Buckland,	3 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ Wendell,	44 50
“ “ “ “ “ “ Greenfield,	23 78
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ for repair Sus. Bridge,	25 90
“ “ “ “ “ W. M. King,	49 89
“ “ “ “ “ M. Fitzgerald for prop'ty sold for taxes,	48 57
“ “ “ “ “ County “ Dog Fund,	184 45
“ “ “ “ “ State “ Corporation Taxes,	373 04
“ “ “ “ “ “ Bank Tax,	991 82
“ “ “ “ “ “ State Aid,	514 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ Paupers,	761 59
“ “ “ “ “ “ School Fund,	220 19
“ “ “ “ “ E. Demond, Interest on Taxes,	226 62
“ “ Borrowed by vote of Town,	3600 00
Amount of Tax Bill for 1877,	24,976 31
	\$36,135 59

	Cr.
By Paid State Tax,	\$1725 00
“ County Tax,	3422 62
“ Bank Tax,	2074 57
“ State Aid,	486 67
“ State Licenses,	375 00
“ Borrowed Money,	3600 00
“ School Committee's Orders,	6348 31
“ Selectmen's Orders,	15,134 38
Balance due on Taxes, 1875,	67 55
“ “ “ “ 1876,	400 00
“ “ “ “ 1877,	2456 02
Cash on hand,	45 47
	\$36,135 59

J. H. ROOT, Treasurer.

SCHOOLING.

COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

Paid for Wages,	\$4848 88
“ Repairs,	412 60
“ Transportation,	364 75
“ Fuel,	266 95
“ Care,	271 05
“ Tuition,	78 50
“ Printing; Crayons, Erasers, Brooms, Stationery, and Stamps,	71 89
“ Books,	33 69
	<hr/>
	\$6348 31

Town Appropriation,	6000 00	
Interest State School Fund,	220 19	
	<hr/>	\$6220 19

ESTIMATED NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ENSUING YEAR.

For Thirty Weeks,	\$6000 00
“ Thirty-Six Weeks,	7000 00
“ Repairs,	300 00

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,	}	SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
W. E. EVERETT,		
FRED HUBBARD,		

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid for Widening Avenue A,	\$400 00	
“ Grading Railroad street	30 00	
“ Building New Culverts and Railing,	200 00	
“ Plank and Suspension Bridge,	150 00	
“ Repairs Turners Falls District,	1370 93	
	<hr/>	\$2150 93

Paid for Plank and Shingles for Bridge,	\$73 63	
“ Repairs, C. Scott,	395 08	
“ “ George Wright,	375 21	
“ “ E. E. Scott,	82 70	
“ “ A. Porter,	87 85	
	<hr/>	1014 47

Paid for Repairs Millers Falls,	563 45	
	<hr/>	
Total for Highways and Bridges,		\$3728 85

Town Appropriation,	\$3500 00	
Received from Ferry and T. F. Bridge,	75 90	
Deficiency,	152 95	
	<hr/>	\$3728 85

EDWIN DEMOND, }
 J. F. BARTLETT, } ROAD COMMISSIONERS.
 G. EDGERTON, }

PAUPERS.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Michael McCarthy,	\$69 25	Mrs. Sexton,	10 50
Joseph McGuire,	122 25	Tim Ellis,	20 65
Mrs. Kate McCarthy,	82 28	Geo. L. Stevens,	75 98
Mrs. Boleo,	92 41	John E. Squires,	115 74
Mrs. Thomas Kelly,	19 74	Edward Gray,	36 17
Mrs. Ann Young,	46 35	John Stark,	42 00
Christian Early,	18 50	Mrs. Angeline Selden,	71 14
C. Redding,	46 00	Henry Quinn,	14 00
Mrs. Grenell,	5 25	Martin McAllister,	154 60
Mrs. Burnham,	22 14	Cornisky Child,	8 00
D. Murray,	5 00	Ben. Tilden,	10 25
Lawrence McGuire,	14 30	Elhanan Britt,	2 64
Mary Leary,	106 67	Miss Dorsey,	5 00
Mrs. Terry,	40 19	Mrs. Zimmerman,	37 14
Mrs. Mary Pearson,	30 45	Sylvia Burnham,	43 00
Nathan Bacon,	268 95	Ira G. Williams,	109 69
Erastus Britt,	53 29	Emerson Newton,	33 00
Frederick Zimmerman,	154 85	A. Anthoine,	25 00
Mrs. Ada Loveland,	47 75	Mrs. McCabe,	2 50
Mrs. Byron Russell,	43 90	Miss Harris,	2 90
Clarence Potter,	24 00	Mary Collet,	9 00
Cephas Burnham,	62 26	Mary Leary, 2nd,	6 12
Lilian Lavancher,	28 60	Charles Clark,	21 46
William Cassidy,	4 00	George Reynolds,	5 26
John M. Haug,	12 00	Mary Casey,	8 00
Charles Burnham,	14 00	Michael Strahan,	40 00
N. Potter,	16 00	Michael Dunn,	3 50
J. H. Gardner,	8 75	Tramps,	103 15
Mrs. R. Potter,	8 00	Amasa Ryder,	7 50
Dana Cook,	8 46	Lawson Boy,	54 00
Mrs. Ware	1 10	Mrs. Bowman,	3 50
Lock Payne,	1 35	Hannah Grace,	96 75
Nathan Stewart,	7 70	Mary A. Burnham,	97 35
Mrs. Emily V. Rich,	67 33	Charles E. Curby,	3 65
Cora Boswell,	39 00	Ezra E. Stowell,	250 86
Henry Kentfield,	4 50	Burial Expenses,	88 00
Paid on Town Farm Account,			924 55
Total for Support of Poor,			\$4133 12
Remaining in Treasury,			296 58
			<hr/> \$4429 70

Amount brought forward, \$4429 70

Town Appropriation,	\$2000 00	
Received from State,	761 59	
Due from State,	554 96	
Received from Other Towns,	638 27	
Due " " " "	224 02	
" " Ezra Stowell's Estate,	250 86	
	<hr/>	\$4429 70

EDWIN DEMOND, }
 J. F. BARTLETT, } OVERSEERS OF POOR.
 G. EDGERTON, }

TOWN FARM.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Received for 2 Oxen,	\$130 00
" Beef,	16 45
" Veal,	20 59
" Pork,	18 65
" Fowls,	3 40
" Vinegar,	4 20
" Beans,	50
" Walnuts,	3 00
" 2 Steers,	50 00
" 1 Hide,	3 96
" Pasturing,	5 00
" Milk,	20 00
" Stabling Horses,	30 00
" Straw,	25 00
" Vegetables,	13 30
" Oats,	6 60
" Buckwheat,	1 50
" Town Treasury,	924 55
	<hr/>
	\$1276 70

Amount Received for Paupers, brought forward, \$1276 70

Paid for Fertilizers,	\$24 33	
“ Clothing,	52 33	
“ Repairs on House and Barn,	49 30	
Paid Moses Spencer, for Services,	219 26	
Paid for Labor,	61 24	
“ 1 Horse,	50 00	
“ 1 pair Harnesses and Halter,	44 30	
“ Lumber Wagon,	70 00	
“ 3 Yearlings,	35 00	
“ 6 Cot Beds,	10 50	
“ 1 Light Harness,	7 00	
“ Making Cider,	50	
“ 1 Vise,	1 25	
“ Tomato and Cabbage Plants,	70	
“ Difference between Horses,	5 00	
“ Cultivator,	12 00	
“ Hay,	10 00	
“ Medicine and Medical Attendance,	14 61	
“ Blacksmithing,	24 34	
“ 1 Cow,	35 00	
“ 1 Cook Stove,	55 00	
“ Tin Ware,	5 78	
“ Mowing Machine and Repairs,	35 00	
“ 4 Pigs,	12 00	
Paid J. B. Carey, bal. on labor for 1875-6-7,	28 23	
Paid for Paper,	2 00	
“ A. Dike,	5 68	
“ Meat,	41 86	
“ Groceries and Provisions,	215 99	
“ Crackers,	41 40	
“ Flour and Meal,	51 50	
“ Millers Falls Co.'s bill,	27 00	
“ Other Sundry Bills,	28 60	
	<hr/>	\$1276 70

INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM PROPERTY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 1878.

Real Estate,		\$4200 00
Live Stock—2 Horses,	\$125 00	
4 Cows,	160 00	
2 Two-Year Olds,	50 00	
2 One-Year Olds,	30 00	
28 Hens,	14 00	
3 Swine,	50 00	
	<hr/>	429 00
		<hr/>
		\$4629 00
Produce and Provisions—6½ Tons Hay,	\$97 50	
3 “ Straw,	36 00	
40 Bushels Corn,	26 00	
38 “ Rye,	26 60	
22 “ Oats,	11 00	
5 “ Buckwheat,	3 75	
6 “ Beans,	12 00	
100 “ Potatoes,	60 00	
75 lbs. Pork,	7 50	
100 lbs. Beef,	7 00	
40 lbs. Lard,	4 50	
40 lbs. Tallow,	2 40	
50 Gallons Vinegar,	10 00	
	<hr/>	304 25
		<hr/>
		\$4933 25
Household Furniture,		272 85
Farming Tools,		300 00
Due on Farm Accounts,		61 66
		<hr/>
		\$5567 76
Paid from Treasury,	\$924 55	
Interest on Town Farm,	300 00	
Taxes on Town Farm Property,	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$1244 55

There has been furnished 298 weeks' board to inmates, besides giving entertainment to 268 Tramps.

EDWIN DEMOND, }
 J. F. BARTLETT, } OVERSEERS OF POOR.
 G. EDGERTON, }

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

State Tax,	\$1725 00	
County Tax,	3422 62	
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/>	\$5147 62
Town appropriation,	\$5000 00	
Deficiency,	147 62	
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/>	\$5147 62

BANK TAX.

Tax paid to State Treasurer,	\$2074 57	
Assessing and Collecting,	27 00	
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/>	\$2101 57
Tax on non-resident Crocker Bank Stock,		2101 57

STATE AID.

Paid from March 1, 1877, to March 1, 1878,	\$486 67
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INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

Paid J. H. Root,	32 50	
E. L. Delano,	69 87	
Miss Philinda Bardwell,	84 00	
Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,	195 00	
Crocker Institution for Savings,	377 33	
Franklin Savings Institution,	874 50	
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/>	\$1633 20
Town appropriation,	1500 00	
Deficiency,	133 20	
	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: 0;"/>	\$1633 20

TOWN DEBT.

Paid Crocker Institution for Savings,	\$2000 00
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CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

TOWN OFFICERS.

J. H. Root, Clerk and Treasurer,	\$100 00
E. Demond, Selectman, Overseer of Poor and Road Comm'r,	100 00
J. F. Bartlett, " " " "	100 00
G. Edgerton, " " " "	75 00
E Demond, Assessor,	75 00
J. F. Bartlett, "	75 00
G. Edgerton,	75 00
Seymour Rockwell, School Committee,	100 00
W. E. Everett, " "	100 00
C. H. Daniels, " "	30 00
F. Hubbard, " "	67 00
E. Demond, Collector,	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$1097 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Montague Public Library, from Dog Fund,	\$86 52
Turners Falls Library, " " "	86 52
" " Police,	519 05
Insurance,	50 00
Defending Turners Falls Bridge,	161 25
Repairs Town Hall and Library,	102 91
Rice Ferry and Boat,	116 82
Alouey Chenery, Care of Library,	50 00
Printing and Advertising,	106 50
Repairs of Hearse,	3 00
Removing Dead Horses,	4 00
For Use and Maintaining Trough,	14 00
For Digging Graves,	10 00
Temporary Interest,	60 23
Defending Reardon's Suit,	121 70
Selectmen and Assessor's Hotel Expenses,	21 90
School Books,	49 07
Legal Advice,	18 50
Abatement of Taxes for 1876,	145 45
" " " 1877,	69 25
W. W. Thayer, Officer,	15 34
H. F. Root, Running Town Line,	8 00
Assessing and Collecting Bank Tax,	27 00
Greenfield and Montague bridge,	119 20

Paid Driving Hearse, Centre,	\$25 00
" " Turners Falls,	84 00
Old Highway Bills,	129 78
Postage, Express, Books and Stationery,	78 60
Recording Births, Marriages and Deaths,	95 05
Traveling Expenses,	52 90
Posting Warrants,	6 00

 \$2542 20

Remaining in Treasury,	1674 28
------------------------	---------

 \$4216 48

Town Appropriation,	\$1500 00	
Interest on Taxes,	226 62	
Corporation Tax,	373 04	
Bank Tax,	991 82	
Liquor Licenses, net,	1125 00	
	<hr/>	\$4216 48

SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S ORDERS.

Paid on Town Debt,	\$2000 00	
Interest on Town Debt,	1633 20	
Town Officers,	1097 00	
Miscellaneous Expenses,	2542 20	
Pauper Expenses,	4133 12	
Highway Orders,	3728 85	
	<hr/>	\$15134 37

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

E. L. Delano,	\$1075 00	
J. H. Root,	500 00	
Miss Philinda Bardwell,	1200 00	
Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,	3000 00	
Crocker Institution for Savings,	4000 00	
Franklin Savings Institution,	15900 00	
	<hr/>	
Total Debt,		\$25675 00

ASSETS.

Due for State Aid,	\$564 67	
State Paupers,	554 96	
Due from Coleraine,	28 00	
Leverett,	67 33	
Deerfield,	77 66	
Fitchburg,	30 45	
Adams,	69 50	
Ezra Stowell's Estate,	250 86	
Gill,	9 50	
Turners Falls Co.,	121 70	
Due for unpaid taxes for 1875,	67 55	
“ “ “ 1876,	400 00	
“ “ “ 1877,	2456 02	
Cash on hand,	45 47	
	<hr/>	\$4743 67
Net Town Debt, March 1, 1878,		20931 33
“ March 1, 1877,		24002 04
		<hr/>
Net decrease the current year,		\$3070 71

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1878.

State and County Taxes,	\$5000 00
Schooling,	6000 00
Interest on Town Debt,	1500 00
Support of Poor,	2000 00
Police Turners Falls,	1000 00
Repairing Highways,	3500 00
Building New Streets,	2000 00
Incidental Expenses,	1500 00
Town Debt,	5000 00

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN DEMOND, } SELECTMEN
J. F. BARTLETT, } OF
G. EDGERTON, } MONTAGUE.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

FROM FEB. 1ST, 1877, TO FEB. 1ST, 1878.

Whole number of Volumes in Library,	1627
Added the past year,	176
Number of Families taking Books,	90

Received from Members,	\$48 30
“ “ Sale of Catalogues,	2 25
“ “ Dog Fund,	86 52

Amount expended for Books,	\$152 15
“ “ for Re-binding Books,	6 50
“ “ for Express, Postage, Paper, &c.,	7 70
“ “ for Lights and Other Expenses,	1 81

Librarian's Salary,	\$50 00
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Received from all sources by the Treasurer, since the commencement of Library,	\$1997 40
Expended,	1930 66
	\$66 74
Money in the Treasury, Feb. 1st, 1878,	

A. CHENERY, LIBRARIAN.

E. A. DEAN, TREASURER.

Montague, Feb. 14, 1878.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MONTAGUE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

The performance of this annual duty enjoined upon school officers by statute law, always brings many an old hackneyed subject to the surface; among them, public indifference, teachers, their qualifications and methods, studies, expenses, truancy, appropriations, pleasant self-congratulations of good intentions and good fortune, gratuitous expressions of public approbation, pleasant acquaintances made, painful recollections of official inefficiency, injudicious measures, unfortunate selection and unwise retention of incompetent teachers, ill success in reforming existing evils, &c., &c. We shall only present these subjects for consideration, not presuming to give them any new or skillful treatment.

It gives us inexpressible pleasure that we can say that the past has been an unusually peaceful, and we trust profitable, school year, giving us little cause or inclination to burden the report with grievances, or complaints of positive opposition or unmerited criticism and unreasonable interference. We should hardly justify ourselves, however, should we overlook or fail to make at least a feeble protest against the universal sin,

PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE.

The manifest indifference of the people to schools and school subjects detracts materially from the inspiration of scholar, teacher and the appointed school authorities. While we would not absolve the public from its deserved censure, we would, however, in extenuation present a view of the case that may reveal some unexecuted duties of our own and of the teacher. If only those teachers

were employed and retained who give freshness to the school and variety to the exercises, in short, make the place inviting and the work entertaining, we are inclined to think that intelligent people would eventually visit them, as they do other places of entertainment. We are all conscious of an indefinable enjoyment while visiting some schools, and in others we are annoyed and pained with the character of the exercises. We have performed visiting duty in our official career when we trust we would have received the commiseration of a kind hearted public had it been present. Unsocial, inhospitable, ill-regulated houses are not attractive resorts.

There are teachers who have either a very inadequate or a very erroneous conception of their calling. They work only by ancient methods, intolerable even in a remote past. They seem to deem themselves the veriest task masters, employed to see that so much *book* is done or committed. They have no variety of resources of application or illustration of their own. They are more dependent for discipline on penalties than presence. They render the school room monotonous and tiresome to themselves and scholars. If such teachers are employed, and such schools tolerated, would it not better become us to thank fortune that our disgrace had escaped detection than to complain that they had not been visited?

SPECIAL PREPARATION.

Teachers may place too much reliance upon their high standing as scholars in the schools they have attended. They may begin to practice in the profession with insufficient special preparation. Some persist in applying who should have been convinced by their continued indifferent success that it is not their proper calling. Such cases often involve the Committee in the choice of the alternatives, to close the school or interfere and assist in maintaining discipline. We are persuaded that, as a rule, official authority can be more profitably exercised in substituting a competent teacher than in trying to supply a teacher's deficiencies. Nor is it the Committee's duty or province, if they are competent, to instruct teachers in their art. Nor can they be afforded the positions in common schools themselves for any considerable time to acquire it.

The sources are abundant, many of them gratuitous, for obtaining it: alert observation, teachers' institutes and meetings, normal schools, public journals, &c. Did teachers avail themselves of the prolific sources of information it would tend to preclude the committee from the delicate duty of many unpleasant criticisms, and they would be mutually spared the mortification of signal failures. Our teachers of the past year have been for the most part of the class especially educated for the profession. We have not a single failure to record. We should do injustice indeed to give them only a passing notice, and only in a general way express our appreciation of their fidelity and determination to give tone and character and attractiveness to their work. We question whether it is the good fortune of any other school board to speak in more unqualified praise of their corps of instructors. And we have good reason to infer that in this we express the sentiments of the community.

STUDIES.

The statutes require the exercise of official authority in prescribing the studies to be pursued by the pupils. It has been difficult to decide upon a course of study best adapted to the present condition of our schools; yet a regular course is indispensable to the attainment of the best results. We assume that every boy and girl in a ten year's school attendance should get a practical knowledge of arithmetic, geography, history, physiology and grammar, and learn something of the natural sciences, and that no one study should be permitted to supplant all the others. Mathematics has often been allowed to become a monopoly, so much so that some pupils have given almost their whole time to it. It has been deemed essential to a practical knowledge of it, to learn and master the entire text books. Much of the matter they contain is difficult and distasteful, not adapted to the abilities or needs of those whose advantages will not extend beyond the common school. Though this superfluous matter may be of great utility for disciplinary purposes, yet but comparatively few can afford to pursue any study simply for mental discipline. It is incumbent upon school authorities to prescribe simple practical text books, and upon teachers to use great discretion and judgment in their use,

that it need not take all the school years to acquire an indispensable knowledge of any single branch. We would offer one direct suggestion to the teacher, viz.: a great deal of oral instruction and black-board illustration with very moderate and temperate use of text books. We have noticed that principles, methods and operations, explained from the blackboard by the teachers, without any apparent rule, are more readily understood and remembered by the scholars. Yet our schools must afford facilities to some pupils whose means and capabilities warrant in aspiring to more culture and higher attainments than a mere ordinary business education. These must give time to the study of books for mental discipline. It is to be desired that our schools may educate their quota for the professional as well as business life. Drawing is an important branch of education to which considerable attention has been paid in our schools. The fact that the law requires that teachers shall be qualified to teach it is an evidence that our legislators recognize its utility. We think it will be introduced into all our schools with beneficial results. Reading, that so often has been only an *exercise* has become a *study*. We have been much encouraged with the new interest created in this branch, especially in the primary schools. The teachers are applying effectual remedies to the old and prevalent complaint styled school tone, which has always been such a sore affliction to a visitor.

TRANSPORTATION

is gaining favor not only with scholars and committee, but, we believe, with the community as well. It combines economy and improved school advantages. It is a comparatively new measure, and it would be strange if it were adjusted to the entire approbation of all families. It were about as easy to *equalize* its advantages as to make the distances from the school houses of different families all the same. We have assumed that any pupil living within a mile, a little more or less, from the school house, was not entitled to its provisions. We think that the experiment of extending its benefits to Dry Hill and Chestnut Hill might be tried to their advantage. The schools there of eight or ten pupils

cannot by any human means be made as interesting and profitable as larger schools.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Gov. Rice, in his annual address, speaks thus confidently: "The people of Massachusetts will never cease to respond to every wise and proper provision for keeping in vigorous action the common schools, and for bringing the means of obtaining a fair education within reach of the humblest of her children."

A specific sum appropriated for a public purpose, by a vote of the town, we would naturally accept as the expression of their wishes and requirements, and those to whom it is committed for expenditure, if consistent with reason and law, should conform to the sentiments so expressed.

We would hesitate to speak disparagingly of the safe, old-fashioned virtue, Economy. Yet there may be danger of excessive deference to it, if it deters us from safe and paying investments and from the enjoyment of benefits and luxuries that we can well afford. If capital applied to educational purposes is a good investment, as is claimed and generally conceded, would it be excessively burdensome, with our encouraging growth and comparatively light taxation (one per cent), to raise a sum sufficient to give our children thirty-six weeks' schooling annually, is a question worthy of our careful consideration. The six thousand dollars appropriated has been barely sufficient to give thirty weeks, when we were instructed to draw from the sum for the care and repairs of the school houses; and that amount is large as our account on a foregoing page exhibits. It will always require a considerable sum annually to keep our \$40,000 worth of school buildings in good condition.

An immediate appropriation is imperative to furnish room and accommodation for the increased number of school children at Turners Falls. We have been obliged to seat ninety children in one room, while most of the others have been more or less crowded. There should be some room to spare, as it is impossible to equalize the number for each room, and at the same time maintain the desirable system of grade.

WAGES.

There has been no material change in our teachers' wages. We adhere to the opinion that they are not overpaid. Their net salary will hardly average one hundred and fifty dollars per year. True, they work but thirty weeks, yet temporary positions, giving any remunerative employment, during their vacation, are rarely availa-

ble, even if they were able or it were expedient that they should assume them. If circumstances seem to insist upon retrenchment, we should not feel justified in making our teachers the victims. They comprise a capable and intelligent class of young ladies whose education has involved considerable expense. Their work is wearing and exacting, and they deserve a good compensation.

TRUANCY.

We have not yet succeeded in reaching and reforming all cases of habitual truancy. It may not be universally understood that school attendance of twenty consecutive weeks, of all between the ages of seven and fifteen, is compulsory. The wisdom of the statute may not be fully appreciated by all. Hence the necessity of appointing officers, giving them authority and making it incumbent upon them to enforce the law, and the adoption by the town of regulations to govern them. Until last year the town had adopted no truancy regulations. If these regulations are strictly adhered to and maintained, and parents and guardians co-operate with the appointed authorities, the evil will be speedily corrected.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion we would say that we believe that the past has been one of the best school years that has ever been the good fortune of the town to experience. The teachers, the spirit of public sentiment, and supervision, are important factors to school results. Of our teachers we have already spoken. We desire to express our appreciation of, and satisfaction with, the pleasant mutual relations of all parties—the tolerance of parents toward teachers' imperfections, the leniency of the community toward the inevitable mistakes and misfortunes of the Committee—and a generous disposition, though sometimes negatively expressed, manifested to sustain and support them. If the public is charitably disposed to include our official efforts in the sum of the causes that have effected an unusual awakening and general good result, we wish to share the credit with the worthy and efficient *member who retired from the board at the close of the first term of the year, who, we feel assured would wish to share in the accountability for our errors and misfortunes.

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,	}	SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
W. E. EVERETT,		
FRED HUBBARD,		

*Rev. C. H. Daniels.

